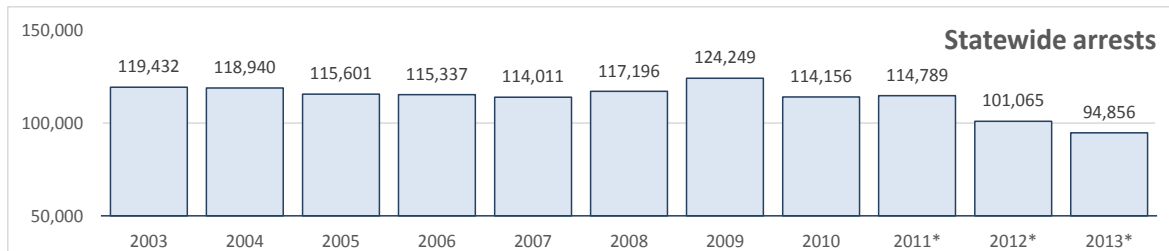

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY
FROM: MIKE LAWLOR, UNDERSECRETARY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING, OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
SUBJECT: CRIME REDUCTION IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2014

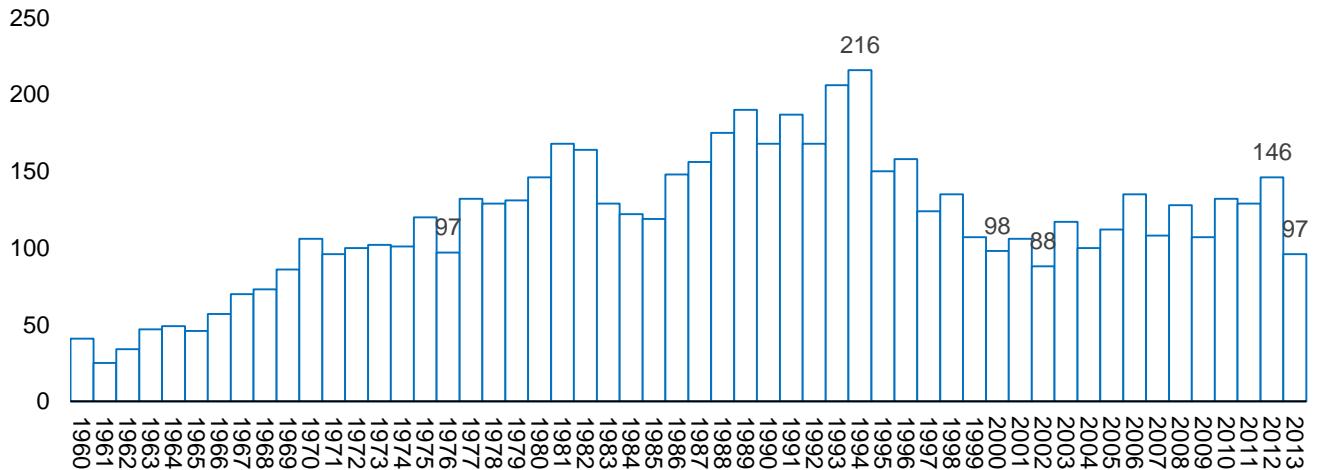
Since 2011, my office has been working in collaboration with various criminal justice agencies to take aggressive steps to reduce crime, achieve cost savings, and to restore the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. While our work is far from complete, I want to update you on some of the progress that has come to fruition due to these efforts and collaborations. **Most notably, the number of murders recorded in 2013 was third lowest in 40 years, and only the 4th time in 40 years that the number of murders in Connecticut dropped below 100.**

The following chart shows the steady decline in criminal arrests in Connecticut, from a high of 124,249 in 2009 to 94,856 in 2013:



With fewer arrests and the number of reported crimes dropping at similar rates, Connecticut's lower crime rates have rippling effects for other areas of the criminal justice system. All told, the various state criminal justice agencies, in collaboration with local police departments have made dramatic improvements concerning the safety of our citizens. Our cities and towns are undoubtedly safer than they were five years ago, as evidenced by the dramatic reduction in statewide murders and the reduction of shooting incidents in our urban centers.

The chart on the following page shows the number of murders recorded in Connecticut from 1960 to 2013. In the past four decades, there have only been fewer than 100 murders in 4 of those years. While the number of murders in Connecticut has stayed steadily above 100 per year in most years with a high of 216 in 1994, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reported 97 murders in 2013, down from 146 in the previous year:



The decline in murder is even more significant considering the preceding chart marks number of incidents, not rates, and the number of murders is shrinking while the population of our state steadily increases. There are 600,000 more people living in Connecticut this year, compared to 1968.

As you know, murder and non-fatal shooting incidents have historically been concentrated in 3 of Connecticut's largest urban centers. Over the past few years, we have enacted and supported statewide initiatives and partnerships designed to work directly in the communities on a long-term basis. These project include but are not limited to Project Longevity, a \$3.5 million state investment to community organizations that work to combat youth violence, strengthened gun safety laws, efforts by law enforcement to focus on violent crimes and illegal guns, and juvenile justice reforms that directly impact young men who might otherwise be gang and violence bound.

While there is clearly still more work to do in our urban centers, Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport have been able to see early progress from these initiatives with significant reductions in violent crime. The following chart shows that initial progress in incidents of murder and non-fatal shootings in a 3-year period in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport:

